

--2. A method for preparing microparticles, comprising:

(A) preparing a first phase comprising a biodegradable and biocompatible polymer, an active agent, and a solvent;

(B) preparing a second phase;

(C) combining said first phase and said second phase under the influence of mixing means to form an emulsion in which said first phase is discontinuous and said second phase is continuous;

(D) separating said discontinuous first phase from said continuous second phase; and

(E) reducing a residual level of said solvent in said discontinuous first phase to less than about 2% by weight.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein step (E) comprises:

washing said discontinuous first phase with an aqueous solution at a temperature in the range of from about 25°C to about 40°C.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein step (E) comprises:

washing said discontinuous first phase with an aqueous solvent system comprising water and a second solvent for said solvent.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein said solvent is a solvent blend of at least two mutually miscible organic solvents.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said active agent comprises at least one basic moiety.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein said aqueous solution comprises water and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol is ethanol.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein said aqueous solution is water.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein said aqueous solvent system further comprises a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol is ethanol.

12. A microencapsulated active agent prepared by a method for preparing microparticles, said method comprising:

(A) preparing a first phase comprising a biodegradable and biocompatible polymer, an active agent, and a solvent;

(B) preparing a second phase;

(C) combining said first phase and said second phase under the influence of mixing means to form an emulsion in which said first phase is discontinuous and said second phase is continuous;

(D) separating said discontinuous first phase from said continuous second phase; and

(E) reducing a residual level of said solvent in said discontinuous first phase to less than about 2% by weight.

13. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein step (E) comprises:  
washing said discontinuous first phase with an aqueous solution at a temperature in  
the range of from about 25°C to about 40°C.
14. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein step (E) comprises:  
washing said discontinuous first phase with an aqueous solvent system comprising  
water and a second solvent for said solvent.
15. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said solvent is a solvent  
blend of at least two mutually miscible organic solvents.
16. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said active agent  
comprises at least one basic moiety.
17. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 13, wherein said aqueous solution  
comprises water and a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol.
18. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 17, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol is  
ethanol.
19. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 13, wherein said aqueous solution is  
water.
20. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 14, wherein said aqueous solvent  
system further comprises a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol.

21. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 20, wherein said C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol is ethanol.
22. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said second phase comprises an aqueous solution of a hydrophilic colloid.
23. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said second phase comprises an aqueous solution of a surfactant.
24. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said second phase is water.
25. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said solvent is free from halogenated hydrocarbons.
26. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said mixing means comprises a static mixer.
27. The method of claim 2, wherein said mixing means comprises a static mixer.
28. The method of claim 2, wherein said active agent is a psychotherapeutic agent.
29. The microencapsulated active agent of claim 12, wherein said active agent is a psychotherapeutic agent.--
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